

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
September 2024

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RICK RASKIN

Manassas Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger chaired the first Manassas Veterans Roundtable on August 20 .

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**CANNON NEWS**—Multiple award winner at both the State and National levels, including 2024 National Grand Award.

## Commander's Message



**Wayne Moore**

### A Shared Perspective on Patriotism

**Forward:** This month we will memorialize 9/11. As a child, I knew little or nothing about America or its relationship to slavery. However, I held a great disdain for the United Kingdom with rabid madness based on related stories from my elders. Though I was born under the American flag my parents were of Black Danish and British descent. Six of my seven brothers (plus 1 son) served in the United States military with an

accumulated 116 years (lifers). My children, mostly girls, often ask "why"? The best-articulated answer is my quote below from Navy Commander Bobby Jones (Retired).

Commander Bobby Jones a Navy commanding officer of a riverine squadron during wartime was asked to share his thoughts on patriotism. Here is what Commander Jones had to say. Please share it with someone who needs to hear it.

[Transcribed from YouTube and edited for clarity:  
<https://youtu.be/bvNsyAftGQ>]

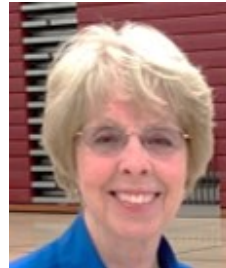
I am a very blessed man you know. I have a family. We have had military history. My grandfather was a Korean War vet and my wife's grandfather was a Tuskegee Airman in World War II. The first thing I would tell people is that patriotism is not some little trait or accessory to have as a citizen. There is a difference between being a good citizen and being a patriot. To me the number one difference between a good citizen and a patriot is sacrifice. If you go and vote or clean up your local park, you go to school, you go to church, you do things you're supposed to do; congratulations, you're a good citizen. But when you give up something: time away from your family, a much more lucrative lifestyle, risk life and limb [or] your own life forfeited, those are patriots. Those that raise their hands and say they are willing to be that dude, and it is not just the military. We have people that go into burning buildings on purpose and get paid peanuts. We have law enforcement officers who are vilified, but at the same time when things go sideways, they are the first person you call, and you expect to be there. They must figure out that balance. We have people who could make more money in the medical profession but choose to go where they are called because that is what matters to them. That's patriotism.

Patriotism is putting everybody else before yourself and you are sacrificing to do it. It is that simple. Patriotism is not complaining, bitching, and moaning when something does not go your way, and then you want to rely on and wrap yourself in the flag. That is not it.

I'm going to tell you the highest proclivity to serve in America is the African American male. ... [In spite of] everything that's happened to people who look like me, we believe in those words that were put on paper, both in 1776 and then ratified in 1787 through 1789. We believe in those words [that] all men are created equal [and] you have the right to

*(Commander continued on page 4)*

## Auxiliary President



**Mary Corkhill**

Every year, as part of the official commemoration ceremony held at the World Trade Center for victims' families, they observe six moments of silence marking the key events of 9/11. Toll bells begin at 8:46 AM. to mark the beginning of the attacks. Americans will fly the American flag at half-staff and observe a moment of silence for the lives lost.

National VFW Auxiliary's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) will be at the VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The National President and guest will be celebrating the National Home's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As we recognize National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be participating with American Legion Post 10 at 8:00 PM for the ceremony.

Every year, September marks National Suicide Awareness Month. It is time to raise awareness about suicide prevention and share messages of hope. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number is 1-800-273- 8255 available 24 hours every day.

It's that time of the year when we remind the annual members to pay their dues of \$20.00 for 2025. There are two ways of paying: 1) on the National website, <https://vfwauxiliary.org/>, under MALTA Member Login or 2) to our Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi (571/330-5457). Call me at (703/361-8950) if you need any assistance. Thank you in advance.

Again, we are having our annual fundraiser with the not-for profit Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization. Sponsorships are \$17 per wreath of which \$5.00 will be returned to the Auxiliary. To pay for your sponsorship with a credit card, visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org> and please remember to include our Sponsoring Group ID No. VA0040P and Cemetery ID No. VASMGM. The **DEADLINE** is November 30, 2024, and forms are attached to this newsletter. Wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves at Stonewell Memory Garden Cemetery in Manassas on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon.



At the National Home, families find a healing calm in a tranquil, rural, small-town community. Tree-lined streets connect 42 single-family homes with common areas like a gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more. The National Home is getting ready for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I have received word of several members facing medical issues. Please keep them and/or family members who are ill, hospitalized or have gone to their heavenly home in your prayers.

Respectfully,  
 Mary Corkhill  
 Auxiliary President



## Manassas City Mayor Holds First Ever Veterans Round Table at Post 7589

By Jerry Martin

On August 20<sup>th</sup> Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger hosted the first ever Veterans Round Table at Post 7589. In attendance were members of Manassas VFW Post 7589, Manassas American Legion Posts 10 and 114, Culpeper American Legion Post 330, and Prince William County DAV Chapter 15. Both VFW Post 7589 and American Legion Post 114 were founded in 1946 shortly after the end of the Second World War. Local veterans present all agreed that this was the first time in 79 years that a Manassas City elected Mayor sat down to listen to veteran issues in our community. Also present were veterans from other nearby Veteran Service Organizations, and interested individuals who had the opportunity to express their views.

A total of sixteen concerns were provided to the mayor for review and comment. Mayor Davis Younger said each would be looked into and indicated that many were outside the jurisdiction of Manassas City but would be provided as possible discussion topics at the Annual Commonwealth of Virginia Mayor's Conference. In closing Mayor Davis-Younger said she had appointed Manassas City Councilman Ralph Smith as the Veterans Point of Contact for the city. Once Manassas City VSOs have formed a Veteran's Council, that all felt necessary, Councilman Smith will meet with them to work directly on the issues the city can assist with. Mayor Davis-Younger also said, before leaving the meeting, she looked forward to the round table becoming an annual occurrence.



## Youth Committee



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes everyone is having a great summer and is ready for the Labor Day weekend. We are scheduled to hold our August meeting on Monday, 26 August and unfortunately my newsletter is preceding our meeting. We are varying our meeting schedule this year because of some educational commitments I am faced with. We are all diligently working on our scholarship programs this season and our programs include Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year. Our Post contest deadline for all three events is 31 October. In the near future my committee will be collecting the contest applications from our schools and preparing them for post judging. A new management system from National, called Scholarship App, allows students and teachers to totally submit their applications online. Technically we could even judge them through this system and do so virtually. I will let you know more about this method as the judging time approaches. Again, we still have a couple of months before we reach our deadline so please help us get students and teachers enrolled. This is a scholarship contest with generous awards given from the Post to National level.

We are preparing for our 9-11 Flag Retirement Ceremony. This year, with weather permitting, it will be held on 9-11 at the post. Our very own Scout Troop 1372 will be conducting it along with assistance from the VFW and Auxiliary. Set up will begin at 6:00 PM and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Food will be served during the set-up time and will be cosponsored by the Auxiliary and the VFW. If you can make the event that will be terrific. It is a very solemn and moving ceremony and is well produced by our Scouts. If you also want to participate in the event, please let any of the youth committee members know and we'll include you in the activities.

Alex and Tina Bliem have both been very busy with Scouting this summer and I will let them update you in their report next month. We are still discussing an idea for a flag drop box to replace the wooden one we are currently using which is not watertight and allows the flags to get damp and moldy. Some of the options include some commercially made products, one specifically for flags, another is a metal mailbox which can be modified as a flag receptacle and lastly a store-bought Lowe's or Home Depot job box which would need some modification and painting. That would be a great Eagle Scout Project for one of our Eagle Scout candidates. We'll talk about them and make a decision at the next general meeting.

I'll have more to report to you in the next newsletter when the committee meeting dates realign with the newsletter publication. Please join us and participate in the Youth Committee. It is very rewarding and ensures that our next generation of Americans are off on the right start. The September Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, 23 September at the post at 7:00 PM. Have a great month and we hope to see you there.

Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

*(Commander from page 2)*

pursue Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. We believe that, even when it can be argued, we have never had it. We went to defend the rights and privileges not afforded us. We fought wars while being segregated. My grandfather-in-law came home from the war and passed through Norfolk in uniform, but could not get a sandwich in the front of a shop. He had to move to the back of a train for Nazi POWs, but he still served.

Do you see what I am saying? He still bought into the dream of what it means to be American. When I see people in their 2024 Jeep Cherokees with freaking "Don't tread on me" on the back sticker or license plates [who] never left their little area, and tell me that they are patriots, I laugh, because they have never sacrificed a damn thing for this country. Some people give to society, while others take, and right now, we have many more takers calling themselves patriots.

When I think about patriotism I think of sacrifice costing you something for people who may never even see you. Heck, I did that for people who will call me "Nigga" to my face. But I would serve again because I am a patriot. I don't just talk about it, I've had to live it. My brother almost got shot down in Afghanistan as a pilot in the Air Force, and we [are] willing to do it again. That's patriotism. My daughters and niece have missed us for birthdays and special holidays. I tell them the sacrifice is worth it. That's patriotism. It's not about what you can take it's about how much you're willing to give. The thing about it is [that in] every generation of Americans we've had a group of people that did that: From the Founding Fathers that went broke when they signed the Declaration of Independence, to the kid that's 17 [and] is walking to his local recruiter in the mall saying "I'll go", even though he could do something else with his life. That's patriotism. This fake, whatever, I am upset because I did not get the dude that I wanted to be elected, that's not patriotism, that is bitching.

I am tired of it, but most importantly, our enemies Russia, China, and Iran see it and they are laughing at us. They think we no longer have true patriots. You know what, they're wrong. We're still here, hoping that the rest of the country figures itself out. We're still here but understand [that] the more we act divided [and] the more we act stupid because whatever person we wanted to support isn't the one the whole country [wants, things] fall apart. ... Get out of your feelings to understand what America is supposed to be. We have not gotten there yet, no, but that is the beauty of this country. We can continue the journey to be the best country ever, which makes us America, not because we are perfect but because we know we are not perfect. We keep trying to make it better. Just because your damn feelings are hurt, because you lost a damn election, because you don't want to say you lost something, nobody's got time for that, especially now. So yes, patriotism seems to be the word of the day for many people. But to quote Marshawn Lynch "I'm about that action boss I could care less about what you think, show me!"

Hundreds of thousands have sacrificed or lost their lives in the belief that no individual is above the country or its people who he/she serves!



## Observed Lessons of Filing a Veteran's Administration Claim

I have been retired for 13 years and submitted my original claim in 2010 followed by two supplemental claims. Some of the lessons I learned may have you scratching your head with a (No s---t Sherlock) quip. There is plenty of information, however, we do not know what we do not know. Often the smartest among us find themselves having to resubmit several claims to get earned benefits. Their promises and what we get don't always equate.

- The veteran is responsible for all information submitted; our Veteran Service Officers (VSO) can only be as good as the info received.
- NO VETERAN IS REQUIRED TO PAY FOR FILING A VA CLAIM! Nor do you have to be a member of any veteran service organization (helpful to be)
- A lawyer or anyone requiring payment is seldom needed (Difficult appeals).
- Your medical records must support the illness being claimed. It would be best if you verified the info before sitting down with VSO.
- Ask your doctor (s) for associated/symptoms that may create other health issues. BIG\*
- Be aware of the DSM-IV terminology, codes, and required forms to file.
- The VA claim office is not our enemy but don't expect favors.
- Understand service-connected vs presumptive illness.

### Compensation and Pension

- Attend all requested medical evaluations promptly.
- Again! The examiner is not an enemy, however, what you say influences your success. Lying could be costly to your well-being and benefits!
- Request someone who has some expertise related to your illness.
- You have the right to appeal any denial of illness.
- VA math is different, YouTube or good VSO for better understanding!
- Appeal annually for any claim denied, or you'll lose retroactive payment if illness changes for the worse.
- VSO may have good intentions but it's your life, so seek another opinion if you're unsure. All legitimate veteran organizations have claim representatives or know where/how to get one.
- Keep a family member aware of your DD214/215, medical records, and health issues.
- Understand the lengthy process (6 mos. - 2 yrs), start early, and be vigilant with lots of patience.
- You are your best advocate; the VSOs and the VA's claim offices are inundated with caseloads. Do due diligence in your claim process, and if possible, get a va.gov account and be ahead of the game.
- The process could be exhausting, difficult, and slow. Family members could be left trying to navigate a system without the knowledge of where to start.
- Finally! Some veterans become prey for Claim Sharks because they fear or dislike having to be associated with one of the VSOs . Again, you don't have to be a member of a VSO for us to perform our mission.

I WOULD BE REMISS TO OMIT THAT YOUR PARTICIPATION BENEFITS THE ORGANIZATION AND ALL VETERANS. The SYNERGY in numbers often forces politicians to stop the assault on benefits earned.

Wayne Moore,  
Post Commander

## Joint Leadership Council Report



Rick Raskin

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) was instrumental in advocating for the repeal of VMSDEP restrictions introduced in the Virginia budget. A working group has been empowered to examine funding going forward after the 2-year extension of the program. The VFW and JLC are represented in the working group.

The JLC held an interim legislative committee meeting on August 11 to review proposed initiatives submitted for the next legislative session. Among those being considered is the effort to ban Claim Sharks in Virginia (VFW). We already have two sponsors for the proposed legislation: Senator Danica Roem and Representative Brianna Sewell. Doug Hoffman has been working closely with the JLC and in addition to enlisting Delegate Sewell's support, has provided valuable input. This issue will likely be our top priority when indicatives are prioritized at the next JLC meeting.

I also want to credit my alternate, Joanne Smith from Post 9808 for her support. She has been able to attend committee hearings on short notice to ensure a VFW presence.

Additional proposed initiatives being considered are:

- Virginia National Guard Tuition payment revisions (Virginia National Guard Association)
- Suffolk State Veterans Cemetery Expansion (Virginia National Guard Association)
- Establish a Veterans Education Program (Student Veterans Association)
- Establishment of Women Veterans Day (Student Veterans Association)
- Verification of Veteran Status – Jails and Prisons (American Legion)
- Veteran Treatment Dockets and Marriage Commissioners (National Vet Court Alliance)

Two other proposed initiatives will likely prompt letters of support from the JLC:

- Restoring the Virginia War Memorial Carillon
- Medal of Honor Memorial on Monument Avenue

The next meeting of the JLC is scheduled for September 19 at the Virginia War Memorial starting at 10:00 AM and is open to the public. The meeting will be held in the conference room located on Level 2.

Rick Raskin

PSC

VFWVA JLC Representative

## VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



*\*Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*





## VFW Takes Exception With Service Record Embellishment

*The following is a message from VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt*

**WASHINGTON (Aug. 8, 2024)** — “I have always said those who have raised their right hand to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and donned the military uniform in service to our country deserve our respect. This is why I chose to highlight in a statement yesterday the military service of the vice presidential nominees selected by both major parties for the November election.

Since yesterday, I have watched the vitriol thrown around from veterans online diminishing both candidates’ service. It’s an ugly look for our community but is nothing new. We saw this type of mudslinging during the general election 20 years ago. However, I have heard the outrage over reports of military service record embellishment, something I take exception with. To that point, I feel it is important to reiterate in no uncertain terms the VFW’s position on false service claims, whether that person is running for political office or not.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will not tolerate any individual who embellishes their military service for personal gain. If this is you, then you need to fix yourself.

As the nation’s largest and oldest major war veterans service organization, we are proud of the fact that every one of our members deployed to conflicts overseas at least once during their time in uniform. Many of our members have seen combat, have fought on the field of battle and shed blood in defense of freedom around the world. We don’t have to make ourselves or our service more than it was. The campaign medals, combat ribbons, combat badges, and scars we wear speak for themselves.

As the gap of time widens between major wars, so too does the divide between those who have served and those who have not. It is up to all veterans to remind the rest of America of the sacrifices made on their behalf and help them to understand what military service means. If you wore the uniform of the US military at any point in your life, be honest about your service and accomplishments. No matter what you did while you were in, what rank achieved or whether you served 4 or 24 years, you will always be able to say with pride and dignity that you did what your country asked you to do.”

-vfw-

## VFW Admonishes Former President for Medal of Honor Remarks

*The following is a message from VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt*

**WASHINGTON (Aug. 16, 2024)** — “On Thursday, former President Donald Trump spoke at an event where he made some flippant remarks about the Medal of Honor and the heroes who have received it. In the video that has circulated online and in the media, the former president was recognizing Miriam Adelson in the audience who he awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom during his time in office. As he described the medal as the civilian version of the Medal of Honor, he went on to opine that the Medal of Freedom was “much better” than the military’s top award, because those awarded the latter are, in his words, “... either in very bad shape because they’ve been hit so many times by bullets or they’re dead.” He continued by comparing Miriam to MoH recipients saying, “She gets it and she’s a healthy beautiful woman. They are rated equal.”

These asinine comments not only diminish the significance of our nation’s highest award for valor, but also crassly characterizes the sacrifices of those who have risked their lives above and beyond the call of duty.

When a candidate to serve as our military’s commander-in-chief so brazenly dismisses the valor and reverence symbolized by the Medal of Honor and those who have earned it, I must question whether they would discharge their responsibilities to our men and women in uniform with the seriousness and discernment necessary for such a powerful position. It is even more disappointing when these comments come from a man who already served in this noble office and should frankly already know better.

While the Presidential Medal of Freedom maybe our nation’s highest civilian award, the Medal of Honor is more sacred as it represents the gallantry and intrepidity of courageous and selfless service members, often at the cost of grievous wounds and even their lives. It’s because of our Medal of Honor recipients that great Americans like Miriam Adelson have the freedom to live to their fullest potential and make such lasting contributions to our great nation.

We would like to remind Mr. Trump that the 12 times he had the honor of awarding the Medal of Honor as president of the United States, those were heroes not of his own choosing. He bestowed those medals on behalf of Congress, representing all Americans of a grateful nation. We hold the donation of their lives in service to our country in the highest esteem, and so should he.”

-vfw-

## VFW Elects Al Lipphardt as New National Commander

*The Georgia native urges members to have courage and to 'believe in what you do – do what you believe in'*

**LOUISVILLE, Ky., (Aug. 1, 2024)** — Alfred “Al” Lipphardt, a Georgia native and veteran of the Vietnam War, was elected today as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a congressionally chartered veterans service organization comprised of more than 1.4 million eligible veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces. Lipphardt’s assumption of command took place during the VFW’s 125th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

“I am deeply humbled to stand before you today having been elected and installed to the highest office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, commander-in-chief,” said Lipphardt. “Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, the founders from the Spanish American War followed by World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and deployments placing you between the weapons of our enemies and these shores.”

Lipphardt delivered remarks as the VFW’s 116th commander-in-chief to those attending in person at the Kentucky International Convention Center and watching via livestreaming video, at the conclusion of the weeklong gathering. Approximately 10,000 members of the VFW and its Auxiliary converged on the city to conduct the business of the organization, recognize individuals and organizations for excellence and to elect new leadership for the 2024–2025 year. The last time the VFW held its national convention in Louisville was 2013.

In his address, Lipphardt gave his vision for the year, which he deems “Operation All In,” calling on all levels of the organization to embrace courage and the warrior spirit that sets the VFW apart as the oldest and largest combat veterans organization.

“Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts are some of the very few places where heroes gather, and warriors meet,” said Lipphardt. “Too many people in this nation have forgotten what it is to be a warrior. Heroes are what others think of us. Warriors are who we are.”

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Lipphardt served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1979. He earned his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968, and from 1970 to 1971. In recognition of his service, he received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with Valor device, Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with

Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Medal, and the Vietnam Staff Service Medal First Class.

Throughout Lipphardt’s speech, he reflected on those he served with in the Army, veterans within his family, and how they influenced his life. A solemn moment came when he spoke the names of the ones he lost during the Vietnam War.

“Pvt. Lewis Sloan of East Point, Georgia, Cpl. Kenneth Adams of Santa Clara, California, Cpl. Philip Adams of Croton Falls, New York, Robert Waddell of Batavia, Ohio, and Rodney Loatman of Newark, New Jersey,” said Lipphardt. “These men served under my command when they paid the ultimate price for freedom. I promised myself, those who gave their full measure of devotion would be honored for their service and sacrifice by saying their names whenever I had an opportunity.”



Lipphardt’s remarks harkened back to core tenants of the VFW, as well as its stated vision – ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

“I have only been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 20 years, but I have seen too many members who have forgotten our roots,” said Lipphardt. “Whatever the branch, whatever the military specialty, or whenever the conflict, let us never forget those who no longer have a voice.”

Lipphardt joined the VFW in 2002 when he became a charter member of VFW Post 12002 in North Fulton, Georgia. He later transferred his Gold Legacy Life membership to his current post VFW Post 2667 in Newnan, Georgia. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of Georgia commander from 2014 to 2015, in which he achieved Triple Crown All-American commander status. On the national level, he has served on the Legislative Committee, the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Council of Administration.

“You and I know membership is more than about numbers,” said Lipphardt. “We are not numbers, we are people. I am proud to share with my community – I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.”

Lipphardt is a member of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, Georgia, American Legion, and life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the VFW National Home for Children, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and an inductee to the United States Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association Hall of Fame. He received his Bache-

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Auxiliary from page 8)

lor of Science degree in business administration from Pacific Western University in 1990.

Much of Lipphardt's remarks after being installed as commander-in-chief emphasized a commitment to values and valuing service to the nation. He also spoke about the importance of integrity within the organization.

"If your word is not to be trusted, everything and anything you do is unreliable. You can't be called on nor can you be counted on," said Lipphardt. "There is no place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars for these individuals."

In addition to Lipphardt, other national officers elected were Carol Whitmore, an Iraq War veteran from the Department of Iowa, as senior vice commander-in-chief, and Timothy Peters, a Persian Gulf War veteran from the Department of Montana, as junior vice commander-in-chief. The final day of the convention also saw Adjutant General Dan West and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno reconfirmed in their positions.

"My ask is for you to embrace the vision of courage," said Lipphardt. "Rekindle the warrior's fire in your belly. Put that vision into action. I am proud to lead you, as together, we seek the courage to be the best we can be in all things and at all times.

"Believe in what you do – do what you believe in."

Lipphardt and his wife of more than 57 years, Carol Lipphardt, are retired and reside in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

[Watch](#) Lipphardt's full acceptance speech.



**CANNON NEWS** was award 1st place in it's category in the VFW's annual publication contest.

NOVA Veterans Association, in partnership with Historic Manassas, Inc. (HMI), American Legion Post 10, the Freedom Museum, and the Human Services Alliance of Greater Prince William, will host its 5<sup>th</sup> annual 9-11 event.

[\[SEE PAGE 12\]](#)

The event will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm to 4:00 on the Manassas Museum lawn (9101 Prince William Street). We would like to see as many AL Post 10 and VFW Post 7589 members present as possible, as we remember those who gave all on that dreaded day in American history. Registration can be completed at: [NOVAVETs.org/Events](https://NOVAVETs.org/Events)

HMI is in significant need for volunteers for its Saturday Farmers Market. Specifically, the team needs help with set up from 5:30am-7:30am and breakdown/clean up from 12:30pm-2:30pm. One must be able to lift at least 20 pounds. There are also openings at the Market Information tent between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00pm. Additionally, volunteers are needed for the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Fall Jubilee on October 5<sup>th</sup> and the Holiday Market on December 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information on how to sign up for these volunteer opportunities, you can go to <https://historicmanassas.org/support-hmi/> or reach out to Lisa Harlow at [lisa@historicmanassasinc.org](mailto:lisa@historicmanassasinc.org)



## Laptops donated for Tech for Troops



MEGAN CATE

QM Rick Raskin with the laptop donation.



RICK RASKIN

Megan Cate from American Legion Post 330. Megan is the Post 330 Service Officer and has just joined the VFW as a life member.

On Thursday, August 22 Culpeper American Legion Post 330 combined efforts with Manassas VFW Post 7589 to donate laptops to [Tech For Troops](#). Tech for Troops empowers under-resourced veterans and their families by providing sustainable lifelong digital skills backed through training, education, and technology.

## Tree pruning completed at the Post

The Post selected Old Town Landscaping to do the work which was completed on Tuesday, August 20.

Photos supplied by Old Town Landscaping







## NORTHERN VIRGINIA VETERANS ASSOCIATION

*With Community Partners Presents*



### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 9/11 Event

**Honoring Those Who Gave All  
Stories From Those Who Were There**

**Wednesday, 11 September 2024**

**3pm to 4pm**

**Open to the Public  
Registration  
Required**



**Register Here:**

[https://novavets.org/  
events/911-event/](https://novavets.org/events/911-event/)

**Manassas Historical Museum Lawn**

**9101 Prince William Street, Manassas VA 20110**

# SONY

**Thank you, SONY Corporation of America, for being our 9/11 Event Sponsor!**





# ***Step Back in Time: 3rd Annual Sock Hop***

**FUNDRAISER & DANCE  
FOR FREEDOM MUSEUM**

**September 21, 2024**

**5pm-10pm**

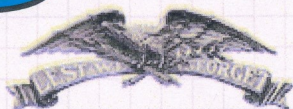
**Bishop Russell Hall**

**9290 Stonewall Road Manassas, VA**



**SCAN HERE**

***Dancing + Silent Auction + Photo Booth  
Raffles + Dinner + Costume Contest***



**FREEDOM MUSEUM**

MANASSAS, VA

[www.freedommuseum.org](http://www.freedommuseum.org)



**BECOME A SPONSOR!**





# DON'T FEED THE SHARKS

VFW submitted its fourth Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to VA requesting documentation about unaccredited companies that provide services to claimants seeking VA benefits. We have received two interim responses from VA to date on this request and anticipate additional responses to be forthcoming. Among the documents provided is a letter sent to a company called REE Medical, dated January 4, 2024, in which VA points out that REE Medical is prohibited from assisting in the "preparation, presentation, or prosecution of VA benefits claims." VA requested a response from REE Medical within 30-days of receipt of the letter to address the concerns raised in the letter. No response was provided in the documents received.

## Legacy Life membership

This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

### Enrollment Cost:

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

### Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00



**Post 7589 Service Officer**

**Monti Zimmerman**

**703-223-2211**

Don't throw away your old laptop or computer.



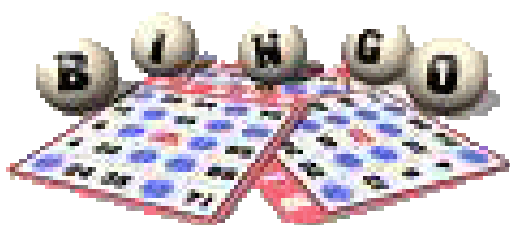
**Bring it to the post and we'll take it to  
TECH FOR TROOPS.**

Sorry, we cannot take CRT monitors or Printers.

What T4T needs the most are laptops, desktop computers, tablets, and cell phones.

These devices go to in-need Veterans after data destruction.

T4T guarantees Data Destruction for all devices that could contain data.



## SIGN UP TO JOIN VFW ACTION CORPS

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER  
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or

Text "VFW" to 50457

or

Visit [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](https://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)

### 30 Games Including:

**\$750 Jackpot**  
(Starts with 51 numbers)

**Lucky 7 Progressive**

**90:10 Jackpot**  
(Prize = 90% of sales)

**Pull Tabs & Hard Cards**

**\$10.00 Bingo Book**  
(includes Early Birds)

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**DOORS OPEN 7:30 AM**

**GAMES START AT 9:15 AM**

**SPECIAL**  
**BUY 2 BOOKS**  
**GET A 1/2 BOOK FREE**

## Virginia Department of Veterans Services

### Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.  
Suite 305  
703-479-7437

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Appointments only 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

Closed for lunch daily from 12 - 1 p.m.

CLOSED on the last business day of the month.

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/locations/manassas-benefits-office>

**2024-25 post Officers**

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Ron Link
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Monti Zimmerman
1 Year Trustee	Chris Morgan
2 Year Trustee	Lamar Baker
3 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Monti Zimmerman
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem

**2024-25 Auxiliary Officers**

President	Mary Corkhill
Senior Vice President	Ellie Smith
Junior Vice President	Cindy McIntyre
Secretary	Lorrie Allen Smith
Treasurer	Elanor Doczi
Chaplain	Cookie Cullen
Conductress	Janet Raskin
Guard	Patsy Gough
Trustee 1	Yvonne Sullivan
Trustee 2	Jan Germain
Trustee 3	Janet Raskin
Historians	Jan Germain Patsy Gough Yvonne Sullivan
Patriotic Instructor	Lorrie Allen Smith

**Upcoming Events**

September 4	Auxiliary Food Drive starts at Bingo — Free 1/2 book with a 4 food item donation
September 7	Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) — VFW National Home
September 9	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM Post Meeting — 7:30 PM (In lieu of Labor Day holiday)
September 11	5th Annual 9/11 Memorial event — Manassas Museum — 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Flag Retirement — 6:30 PM
September 20	POW/MIA Ceremony — American Legion Post 10 - 8 PM
September 21	Freedom Museum Sock Hop — <a href="#">See Page 13</a>
September 23	Youth Committee & Americanism Committee Meetings — 7:00 PM
October 5	Manassas Fall Jubilee — 10 AM—5 PM (Post & Auxiliary)
October 7	Post Meeting 7:30 PM
October 8	Virginia Veterans Foundation Golf Tournament
October 14	Auxiliary Meeting 2:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
October 28	Americanism Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
October 31	VOD, PP and Teacher of the Year contests deadline



VIRGINIA SENATORS		
Mark Warner		202-224-2023
Tim Kaine		202-224-4024
VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVES		
Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Jennifer Kagans	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Jennifer McClellan	4th District	202-225-6365
Bob Good	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-5431
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



# CANNON NEWS

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
Francis Cannon Post 7589  
P.O. Box 10206  
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

Cannon News is emailed to post and Auxiliary members with email addresses on file.  
Cannon News is also available on our website [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)

Editor: Rick Raskin  
Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org) no later than the 28th of the month.  
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.

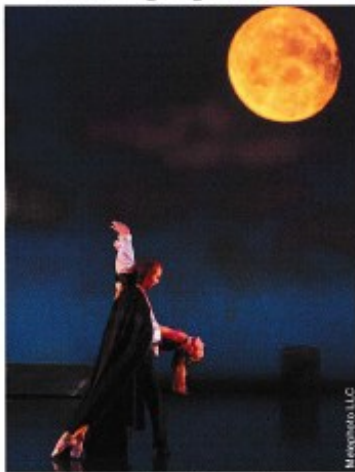


# MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE 2024-2025 SEASON



## DRACULA

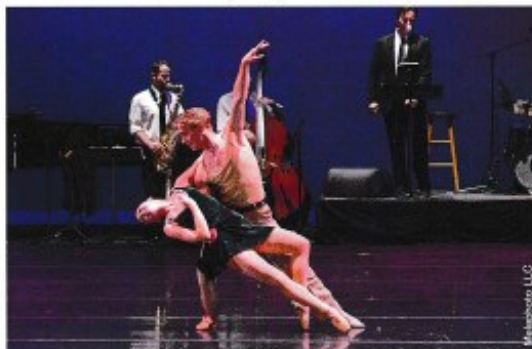
Oct. 18, 19 at 7:30 pm  
Oct. 20 at 3:00 pm  
Streaming Begins Nov. 2



The classic vampire tale of *Dracula* opens Manassas Ballet Theatre's 2024-2025 season; this chilling and blood curdling production will transport you to Transylvania as Dracula's quest for eternal life and love leads the way. The original score by Kim Reynolds and played by The Kim Reynolds Band will draw you in to the chilling and sensual performance by the dancers of MBT.

## LOVE

Mar. 7, 8 at 7:30 pm; Mar. 9 at 3:00 pm  
Streaming Begins Mar. 22



Join us for the premier performance of Kim Reynolds' new ballet, *Love*, performed by The Kim Reynolds Band. Ahmed Nabil will set the stage with his original choreography of this beautiful expression of love and infatuation that will leave you breathless. The ballet *Love* consists of multiple vignettes each representing a different aspect of the complex thing that is love. You will not want to miss this contemporary work heralding in Spring!

## NUTCRACKER

Evening Performances at 7:30 pm; Dec. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22  
Matinée Performances at 3:00 pm; Dec. 21, 22, 23  
Streaming Begins Dec. 24



Experience Drosselmeyer's whimsy and magic and travel with Clara and the Nutcracker Prince as they make their way through a dreamy journey of fantasy with treats and sweets along the way. The *Nutcracker* is a wonderful holiday show for all ages, featuring an international cast of company dancers accompanied by the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra.

## SLEEPING BEAUTY

May 9, 10 at 7:30 pm; May 10, 11 at 3:00 pm  
Streaming Begins May 24



Manassas Ballet Theatre will close the season with the timeless classic *Sleeping Beauty*. Princess Aurora is gifted a curse of death at her christening by the evil Carabosse, but it is softened to a gift of blissful sleep where she can only be awakened by the kiss of a true love prince. Come enjoy this exquisite production by the beautiful dancers of MBT accompanied by the MBT orchestra.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW  
Hylton Performing Arts Center  
10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas, VA 20110

Seating Chart



STAGE



Price Level A:  
\$250.00

STAGE



Price Level B:  
\$215.00

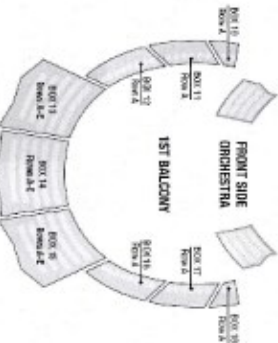
Virtual Only  
Purchase Tickets  
to Stream  
all Four Shows  
for only \$80.00

STAGE



Price Level C: \$185.00

STAGE



Price Level D: \$150.00

Upgrade to **GOLD CIRCLE** Membership  
For **ONLY \$30** more enjoy:

Complimentary Champagne • 10% Discount at Concessions  
and an informative "Chat with the Artists" at each show!

SEASON MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Savings of 20% off regular ticket prices and no ticket fees
- No fee for ticket exchange (subject to availability, some restrictions apply)
- Guaranteed seating at all MBT 2024-2025 productions
- Email notification of upcoming Manassas Ballet Theatre events
- Meet and Greet\* receptions with the dancers after each final performance
- Recognition in the program

Manassas Ballet Theatre

2024-2025 SEASON MEMBERSHIP  
SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PERFORMANCE CHOICES

Dracula ..... Friday, 10/18/24, 7:30pm  
Saturday, 10/19/24, 7:30pm  
Sunday, 10/20/24, 3:00pm  
Streaming Beginning Sat. 11/2/24 at 7:30pm

Nutcracker ..... Evening Performances:  
Wednesday, 12/18/24, 7:30pm  
Thursday, 12/19/24, 7:30pm  
Friday, 12/20/24, 7:30pm  
Saturday, 12/21/24, 7:30pm  
Sunday, 12/22/24, 7:30pm  
Matinee Performances:  
Saturday, 12/21/24, 3:00pm  
Sunday, 12/22/24, 3:00pm  
Monday, 12/23/24, 3:00pm  
Streaming Beginning Mon. 12/24/24, 7:30pm

Love ..... Friday, 3/7/25, 7:30pm  
Saturday, 3/8/25, 7:30pm  
Sunday, 3/9/25, 3:00pm  
Streaming Beginning Sat. 3/22/25, 7:30pm

Sleeping Beauty ..... Evening Performances:  
Friday, 5/9/25, 7:30pm  
Saturday, 5/10/25, 7:30pm  
Sunday, 5/11/25, 3:00pm  
Matinee Performances:  
Saturday, 5/10/25, 3:00pm  
Sunday, 5/11/25, 3:00pm  
Streaming Beginning Sat. 5/24/25, 7:30pm

PAYMENT INFORMATION

# of Season Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Price Level \_\_\_\_\_ Section Request \_\_\_\_\_  
or Virtual Only ☐

Amount Due	Gold Circle Amount Due (if applicable)	Total Amount Due	Amount Paid	Date Paid	Payment Method (Cash Receipts, Check, A.M.E.X., Visa, MC, Discover)

Card Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
I am not interested in a season membership at this time, but would like to make a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please send form and payment to:  
Manassas Ballet Theatre  
9004 Marlin Ave., Manassas, VA 20110  
703-257-1811 info@manassasballet.org  
www.manassasballet.org

Date Rec'd. \_\_\_\_\_  
SM since \_\_\_\_\_  
Gold Circle \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Tx Mailed \_\_\_\_\_

As part of our community involvement, Post 7589 supports Manassas Ballet Theatre in memory of Lance Corporal Colin Wolfe who was killed in action in Iraq.



# WreathsAcrossAmerica.org



## **SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE**

Since 2007, Wreaths Across America carries out its mission **REMEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those that serve and **TEACH** our children the value of **FREEDOM** in part by placing wreaths on Veterans graves during the holiday season.

The **Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589** is working with Wreaths Across America (WAA) to help place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at Stonewall Memory Gardens Cemetery. **Deadline Date is November 30, 2024.**

**Sponsorships are \$17 each.** We are participating because we think it is a great program and \$5 of every sponsorship will support the Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589 directly so we may continue to assist veterans and families as well as our community.

Wreaths Across America will be at **Stonewall Memory Gardens Cemetery** to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

**PLEASE JOIN US** -- All wreaths will be placed by volunteers on **Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 12 Noon.** (Advance notice: the time is subject to change.) This is a moving experience that you should make part of your holiday tradition. With your help our local heroes will be remembered this Holiday Season. **How many sponsorships can we count on you for?**

For more information visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org), or call 877-385-9504.  
You can also email [infor@wreathsaacrossamerica.org](mailto:infor@wreathsaacrossamerica.org)



# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Tax ID 20-8362270

## Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org). If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please make checks payable to:**

Wreaths Across America  
4 Point Street, PO BOX 249  
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.

*Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!*

Sponsorship Type	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
2 Wreaths	\$34.00		
Family - 5 Wreaths	\$85.00		
10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
		Grand Total	

**\*GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM\***

### **In Honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Below, please provide email or mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet.*

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.*

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please note, ALL sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the location and NO wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.***

Location ID: VASMGM Fundraising Group ID: VA0040P

### **FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Total No. Checks: \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciled: \_\_\_\_\_

MO: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN: \_\_\_\_\_